Central funds for development of Horticulture in Bihar

1648. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the central funds allocated, released and utilised for the development of horticulture in the State of Bihar during the last three years, years-wise;

(b) whether the State has achieved any remarkable targets with these funds;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Central Government propose to raise the allocation of funds to the State for further development of horticulture; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) The year-wise details of the funds allocated, released by the Central Government and utilised for the development of horticulture by the State of Bihar during the last three financial years is as hereunder:-

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Allocation	Release	Utilization
1993-94	243.12	196.71	00.00
1994-95	235.82	0.40	00.00
1995-96	127.79	8.88	6.51

(b) and (c) The State Government of Bihar could not achieve any significant physical targets during the last three financial years as it could not fully utilise the funds released by the Central Government.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) No specific proposal has been received from the State so far. Higher allocations can be considered only when substantial progress is reported by the State against the releases made so far.

Preventive strategy regarding locust menace

1649. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the preventive strategy adopted by Government with regard to the locust menace in the country;

(b) whether any action plan in this regard has been prepared; and

(c) if so, the details thereof; and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Sir, the period between June to November is considered active period for locust incursion and breeding in India. The Government of India has adopted the following preventive strategy for curbing locust menace in the country :-

(i) Identification of scheduled desert area comprising two lakh sq. kms. in Gujarat, Rajasthan and part of Haryana as prone to locust incursion and breeding.

(ii) Setting up of Locust Warning Organisation (LWO) with five circle offices, one field headquarters and 23 outposts which has effective wireless system for communication.

Besides, following other steps are also regularly undertaken :-

(i) Imparting training to field functionaries and farmers of the area in locust control operations.

(ii) Special border survey are conducted along Indo-Pak border during active locust season.

(iii) Holding of Indo-Pak border meetings between Locust Officers of India and Pakistan at monthly intervals between June and November.

(iv) Establishment of Wireless linkage between Jodhpur and Karachi to exchange latest locust information during active locust season.

(v) International coordination through Food and Agriculture Organisation for regular locust information from other locust prone countries of the world.

(b) and (c) As a part of preventive strategy to curb any likely locust threat, Annual Action Plan is formulated in the beginning of each